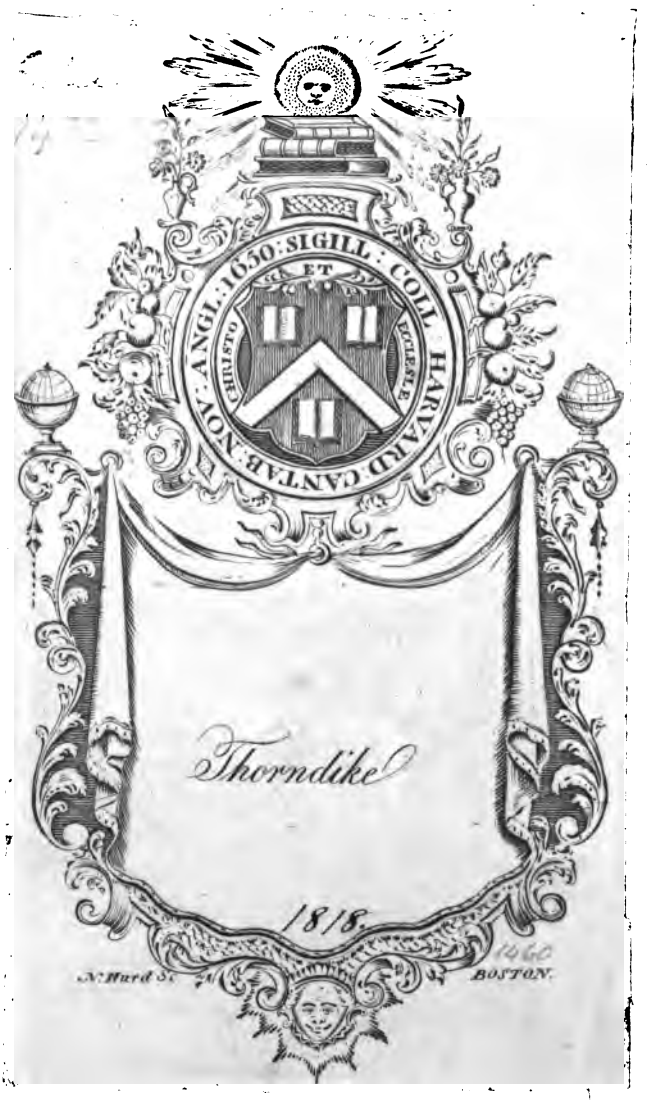
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Professor Ebeling

AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

FREE-SCHOOL SOCIETY

OF

NEW-YORK. (City)

NEW-YORK:

PUBLISHED BY COLLINS AND CO.

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AN ACCOUNT

OF

THE ORIGIN AND PROGRESS

OF

THE FREE-SCHOOL SOCIETY.

To extend the benefits of education to the numerous class of poor children, who were excluded from the various charity-schools already established, had long been an object of anxious desire with several philanthropic characters in the city of New-York. At the request of two or three individuals, whose attention had been particularly directed to the subject, a meeting was called of such persons, as were likely to promote the accomplishment of so desirable an object. On the nineteenth of the second month, (February) 1805, twelve persons accordingly assembled, who were decidedly of opinion, after a free disclosure of their sentiments, that the establishment of schools, for the education of such children, was a measure of high importance to the community in general, and to that class of the poor in particular. At a subsequent meeting, it was de-

termined, with the view of giving greater efficiency to their exertions, to solicit from the Legislature of the state, which was at that time in session, an act of incorporation. A memorial for that purpose was accordingly prepared, and signed by about one hundred of the most public-spirited characters in the city.

The designs of the memorialists were minutely detailed in this document. It was represented that there was a large number of children, who did not belong to, or were not provided for, by any religious society; and who, therefore, did not partake of the advantages arising from the different charity-schools, established by the various religious societies in the city. Destitute of all moral and mental culture, they were wandering about the streets, exposed to the influence of corrupt example, and at a time of life, when the impressions which are made, generally fix the features of the future character. From the want of a virtuous education, they were more liable to become the victims of those evils, by which public hospitals and alms-houses are often filled with objects of disease and poverty, and society burdened with taxes for their support. The Legislature was therefore respectfully solicited to sanction the undertaking of the memorialists, by granting them a charter, and such pecuniary aid as they might deem proper.

The importance of the institutions, contemplated by the applicants, was duly appreciated by the Legislature; and an act was passed, without any oppo-

sition, on the ninth of the fourth month, (April) 1805, entitled, "An act to incorporate the society instituted in the city of New-York, for the establishment of a Free-School, for the education of poor children, who do not belong to, or are not provided for, by any religious society." In this act it was directed, that, on the first Monday in May in every year, there should be elected thirteen Trustees to manage the affairs of the society, who should be members of the said corporation, and actually residing in the city of New-York: that the Trustees should meet regularly on the second Monday in every month, and that seven or more of them, so convened, should be a legal meeting of the Board: That any person, who should contribute to the society the sum of eight dollars, should be a member thereof; and that any person, who should contribute the sum of twenty-five dollars, should be a member, and be further entitled, during the life of such contributor, to send one child to be educated at any school under the care of the society; and whoever should contribute the sum of forty dollars, should be a member, and be entitled to send two children, to be educated at any school under the direction of the said society.

In conformity with the provisions of this act, thirteen Trustees were elected on the tenth of the fifth month, (May) 1805: and as they were chiefly persons, with whom the plan of the institution originated, it may not, perhaps, be unimportant to record their names. The first Board of Trustees was composed of the following persons:

De Witt Clinton, *President,*
John Murray, Jun. *Vice-President,*
Leonard Bleecker, *Treasurer,*
Benjamin D. Perkins, *Secretary,*
Gilbert Aspinwall,
Thomas Eddy,
Thomas Franklin,
Matthew Franklin,
Adrian Hegeman,
William Johnson,
Samuel Miller,
Benjamin G. Minturn,
Henry Ten Brook.

The association had now assumed a responsible shape; and the Trustees soon perceived that they had undertaken a great and arduous task. The erection of a building suitable for a school, the salary of a teacher, and other charges incident to such an establishment, would require a fund of considerable amount. Sensible, however, of the importance of the undertaking, and anxious that the friendless objects, whose welfare they had in view, should begin to participate in the benefits designed to be bestowed upon them, they determined to make an immediate application to their fellow-citizens for pecuniary assistance.

To afford a full view of the wishes and intentions of the society, an address to the public, with the names of the Trustees annexed to it, was circulated in all the Newspapers of the city.

It was stated in this address, that the society did not intend to interfere with any existing institution; but, like gleaners in the wide field of benevolence, they sought such objects only as were left by those who had gone before, or were fellow-labourers with them, in the great work of charity. They considered early instruction, and fixed habits of industry, decency, and order, to be the surest safeguards of virtuous conduct; and that, where parents were either unable or unwilling to bestow the necessary attention on the education of their children, it became the duty of the public, and of those individuals who had the power, to assist them in the discharge of this important obligation.

Although considerable exertions, in the business of soliciting subscriptions, were made by the Trustees, yet several unexpected circumstances occurred to prevent, in that respect, the immediate realization of their wishes. Nearly twelve months elapsed, before they had collected a sum sufficient to warrant them in making the requisite engagements for opening a school.

A mode of teaching the elementary parts of learning, as novel in its principles, as it is successful in its practical results, had been recently adopted in Great Britian. It was the discovery of Joseph Lancaster, who was then superintending, in London, a school of about one thousand children, with extraordinary success. Economy in expense, and facility and expedition in communicating instruction, were the characteristic distinctions of this system. It comprehended reading, writing, and arith-

metic. The scholars themselves were made the instruments of their own instruction. A school was divided into classes of ten or fifteen scholars, who were placed under the care and direction of a monitor, and he was himself a scholar in a class of a superior grade.

Particular accounts of this excellent system had reached this country; and the Trustees did not hesitate to avail themselves of the advantages which it so peculiarly possessed. In carrying it into effect, they derived essential aid from one of their own body, who had seen it in full operation in England, and who was acquainted with its regulations from a personal communication with its author. A teacher, who appeared well qualified for the undertaking, and who is still employed by the society, was found; and under his superintendence a school was opened on the nineteenth of the fifth month, (May) 1806, in a small apartment in Banker-street. In a few days it contained forty-two scholars. This was the first establishment of the Lancasterian system of education in America: a system, which has since been extensively adopted, and which, it is hoped, will yet include, within the sphere of its operation, the whole indigent population of our country.

One clause in the Act of Incorporation, which regulated the meetings of the Trustees, being productive of inconvenience, an act was passed by the Legislature on the second day of the fourth month, (April) 1806, providing that the Trustees might hold their monthly meetings on any day of the week they

might deem convenient. It was therefore immediately resolved, that their regular meetings should in future be held on the first sixth day (Friday) in every month.

In the same month, Col. Henry Rutgers, with a liberality truly munificent, presented to the Society a lot of ground in Henry-street, for the purpose of erecting thereon a school-house to meet the wants of the indigent in that populous part of the city. He afterwards added an adjoining lot to this generous donation; and their united value was estimated at twenty-five hundred dollars.

In the winter of 1806, the Trustees received from many charitable citizens contributions of cloth, stockings, shoes, and hats, which were so distributed among the children, as to make them all comfortable during the inclemency of the season. The benevolence of some individuals has enabled the Trustees to make further distributions of these articles at subsequent periods, but not to an extent commensurate with their wishes, or with the necessity of the case.

In the first month, (January) 1807, the Trustees presented to the Legislature a memorial, containing a statement of what they had done, and soliciting pecuniary assistance to enable them to carry into further effect the benevolent objects of their association. This memorial met with a very favourable reception: and the Trustees had soon to congratulate the friends of humanity, on the passage of an Act, appropriating four thousand dollars towards building a house, and one thousand to be paid annually towards defraying the expenses of the school.

This act was passed on the twenty-seventh of the second month, (February) 1807, and it was the more satisfactory, as it was understood, that this liberal appropriation was made unanimously in both houses.

About the same time, the Trustees applied to the corporation of the city, for their assistance in this great work, which promised to be of incalculable benefit to the rising generation. A committee of that body visited the institution, and they soon after appropriated a building adjacent to the Alms-house for the temporary accommodation of the school, and the sum of five hundred dollars to assist in putting it in repair; and the society agreed, on their part, to receive and educate fifty children belonging to the Alms-house. To this place the school was removed on the twenty-eighth of the fourth month, (April) 1807, and, before the close of the year, it consisted of one hundred and fifty scholars.

In the year 1808, the Trustees had the pleasure of witnessing the growing utility of the institution, and the union of public and private exertions in their favour. The charter of the society not being sufficiently comprehensive to embrace all classes of poor children, and desirous that the benefit of the establishment should not be confined in its application, they solicited and obtained from the Legislature, an act, which was passed on the first of the fourth month, (April) 1808, ordaining that the corporation should in future be denominated "The Free-School Society of New-York," and that its powers should extend to all children, who were the proper objects of a gratuitous education.

And the more effectually to provide for the future exigencies of the school, on an enlarged plan, the Trustees petitioned the Legislature, at the same session, for a liberal portion of the school-fund of the state, whenever it should be in readiness for distribution.

The tenement adjacent to the Alms-house could not accommodate more than two hundred and forty children; this number was soon completed, and numerous demands for admission continued to be made to the Trustees.

A further application for assistance was therefore made to the corporation in the autumn of 1808, and that body, with a liberality worthy of those, who, as the constituted guardians of the city, were deeply interested in the right education of its youth, presented to the society an extensive lot of ground in Chatham-street, on which was an arsenal, on condition of their educating gratuitously the children of the Alms-house. The value of this lot and the old building were estimated at ten thousand dollars. To this important donation, the corporation afterwards added the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, to aid in preparing a new building for the reception of the school.

The attention of the Trustees, in the year 1809, was principally occupied in the completion of the new building. A brick edifice was erected, one hundred and twenty feet in length, and forty feet in width, capable of commodiously accommodating in one room five hundred children. In the lower story there were apartments for the family of the

teacher, for the meeting of the Trustees, and for another school, which would contain one hundred and fifty scholars. In the adoption of their plan the Trustees had economy constantly in view; but at the same time, they were desirous that the style of architecture, and the external appearance of the building, should comport with the liberal patronage which the institution had received, and with the rank of our great and flourishing metropolis. Among the means of lessening the expense of the establishment, they solicited and obtained, from several benevolent individuals, contributions of timber and other materials to the amount of one thousand dollars. They also negotiated with a master-mason and two carpenters, who generously superintended the work, and paid the labourers, without receiving themselves the customary profit. In the erection and completion of this extensive building, the society expended above thirteen thousand dollars.

The following are the names of the persons, to whose benevolence the society was indebted for the superintendence of the work, and the contribution of building materials:

Abraham Russell, Isaac Sharples, William Tilton, Jones & Clinch, J. G. Pierson & Brothers, George Youle, John Youle, Whitehead Hicks, M. M. Titus, Forman Cheesman, Richard Titus, John Rooke, Joseph Watkins, George Lindsay, B. W. Rogers, & Co. Jonathan Dixon, Richard Speaight, J. Sherred, Abraham Bussing, Alexander Campbell, Daniel Beach, Wm. & G. Post, P. Schermerhorn, Junr.

Joel Davis, Thomas Stevenson, Henry Hillman, Thomas Smyth, Ebenezer Basset, John Mc. Kie, Peter Fenton, Wm. Wickham, Wm. Mc. Kenny.

The School in this edifice was opened on the eleventh of the twelfth month, (December) 1809; and, on this interesting occasion, when the institution had acquired a spacious and permanent habitation, the president of the society delivered to a numerous assemblage of its friends and benefactors, an address, delineating the origin and progress of the association, and expatiating on the benefits which might justly be expected to flow from the diffusion of knowledge among the great mass of the people. Every person present felt and acknowledged the interest of the scene. A building, dedicated to the gratuitous instruction of five hundred children, under the care of a single individual, was a spectacle, which had never before been exhibited on the American continent.

At the request of the Trustees, the Legislature passed an act on the 24th of the third month, (March) 1810, directing that no person should hereafter become a member of the society, unless he contributed the sum of fifty dollars, and that every member hereafter admitted should have the right to send one child to one of the schools of the society; but that nothing in the act should be deemed to affect the rights of those, who were members of the society at the time of its passage.

It was also enacted, that at each first meeting of the Trustees after every annual election, it should be in their discretion to appoint, out of

the members of the society, an additional number of Trustees, not exceeding five. In the same act, the Legislature made a further liberal appropriation of the sum of four thousand dollars, to aid the Trustees in the prosecution of their benevolent designs.

The Trustees deeming it advisable to establish, without loss of time, another school on the ground presented to the society by Col. Henry Rutgers, it was determined, in the spring of 1810, that subscriptions should be opened in each ward of the city, for the purpose of enabling the Trustees to erect the contemplated building. The benevolence of the citizens of New-York, great on all occasions, shone conspicuously on this. Although the Trustees had collected from their fellow-citizens in former years the sum of seven thousand dollars, they obtained, on this occasion, the additional subscription of upwards of thirteen thousand dollars.

In the autumn of 1810, the Trustees were deprived of the services of one of their ablest coadjutors, by the death of their secretary, *Benj. D. Perkins.* His labours in the cause of the society had been truly valuable; and a record was entered on the minutes of the Trustees, expressive of their sense of the loss which they had sustained, and of their sincere respect and esteem for the memory of their fellow-labourer.

On the second of the eleventh month, (November) 1810, the corner-stone of the new building in Henry-street was laid by the benevolent donor of the soil,

in the presence of several members of the corporation of the city, and other respectable citizens.

In the twelfth month, (December) 1810, one hundred dollars were appropriated to the purchase of suitable books, to commence a circulating library attached to the school, and additions to it were respectfully requested from the members of the society; and in the same month, a legacy of two hundred and fifty dollars was benevolently bequeathed to the society by the late Charles Le Roux.

The year 1811 was marked with the further extension of public patronage and assistance. The Legislature, with a benevolence worthy of the fathers of the state, again testified their approbation of the institution, by the passage of an act, on the 30th of the third month, (March) 1811, by granting to the society four thousand dollars, and the further annual sum of five hundred dollars, until the pleasure of the Legislature should otherwise determine.

Two eligible positions for schools having now been obtained, it appeared to the Trustees that an additional school in the north-western part of the city, would enable them to extend with great benefit the sphere of their usefulness. Impressed with this sentiment, they presented a petition to the vestry of Trinity Church, in the spring of 1811, who promptly and generously granted to the society two large lots of ground, at the corner of Hudson and Christopher-streets, near the village of Greenwich. The value of these lots was estimated at one thousand dollars.

The building in Henry-street being completed, it was opened on the 13th of the eleventh month, (No-

vember) 1811, as school No. 2. It is eighty feet in length and forty in width, and will accommodate three hundred children; and in the lower story is an apartment in which one hundred and fifty might also be admitted. The building is the same in appearance as the one in Chatham-street, possessing also accommodations for the family of the teacher, and was completed at an expense of about eleven thousand dollars.

In compliance with the request of the Trustees, an act was passed by the Legislature on the 28th of the second month (February), 1812, directing that the society should hereafter elect six Trustees, in addition to those authorized by law.

Every person, who wsa acquainted with these schools, was ready to express his satisfaction with the literary improvement of the children; but there were some, who thought that sufficient care had not been bestowed in the communication of instruction specifically religious. A concern of such high importance had not, however, been overlooked by the Trustees; and they had pursued such measures in regard to it, as they considered to be most expedient. The board was composed of persons of almost every religious denomination; men who were attached to their respective creeds, and who would not fail, on suitable occasions, to recommend an acquaintance with them. But, in these schools, they had studiously avoided the inculcation of the peculiar tenets of any religious society. From the commencement of the institution, they had directed that the Holy Scriptures should be read daily in the schools; and it was thought, that the tender minds of the children

could not fail to be impressed with the sublime precepts and the beautiful morality of these excellent volumes. To satisfy the wishes of every well-meaning person, it was however determined, that the schools should be suspended on the afternoon of every third day of the week (Tuesday), and that this time should be exclusively devoted to the religious instruction of the children. An association of more than fifty Ladies, of distinguished consideration in society, and belonging to the different religious denominations in the city, volunteered their services in the work, and they accordingly meet at the schools to examine the children in their respective catechisms on the day appointed for that purpose. The parents and guardians designated the denomination in whose tenets they wished their children to be educated; and it may not be uninteresting to state the number belonging to each, at the time when this measure was adopted. They were found to belong to the various religious societies as follows, and the numbers are not materially different at the present period.

Presbyterians - - - - - -	279
Episcopalians - - - - - -	205
Baptists - - - - - - -	142
Methodists - - - - - - -	130
Dutch Church - - - - -	33
Roman Catholics - - - -	20
Associate Reformed - - -	16
Total	825

It was also determined, in relation to this subject, that the children should assemble at their respective schools on the morning of every Sunday, or first day of the week, and proceed under the care of a monitor, to the place of public worship to which they respectively belonged.

The two schools will contain about eight hundred scholars. That number is generally complete; and they are educated at an annual expense of about three dollars each. About four hundred children are admitted, and the same number discharged, every year.

Nine years have now elapsed since the society commenced its labours, extending the blessings of education to the children of the indigent in this metropolis. Every succeeding year has afforded them the gratification of announcing to the public, the uniform advancement of the interests of the institution, and of its great and rapidly-increasing utility; and the Trustees have also had the satisfaction of seeing the benefits of the same system extended, either in whole or in part, to several other schools in this city. The two rooms in the lower stories of the buildings in Chatham and Henry-streets, are occupied as female schools, and are under the care of an association of young women in profession with the society of Friends, who teach in these apartments, with signal success, the elementary parts of education and needle-work, on the Lancasterian plan, to about three hundred poor children. The Orphan Asylum Society educate about ninety children, on the plan of this institution, at their

excellent establishment in the suburbs of the city. The Economical School in Anthony-street, whose principal object is the instruction of the children of the Refugees from the West-Indies, is also, with some modifications, conducted on this plan; and the same system has been adopted in the school founded by the Manumission Society, for the education of people of colour, consisting of more than one hundred scholars.

A school has been established in Albany under the patronage of the corporation of that city, and of several very respectable and benevolent citizens: and the association, which established it, have been incorporated by the name of the "Albany Lancaster Society." Several others have also been opened in different parts of the state.

Deputations from the neighbouring states have visited the Free-Schools in this city, for the express purpose of examining their merits; and the reports of these committees have been so favourable, that numerous schools, on this plan, have been established in various parts of our country. An association of the citizens of Philadelphia, under the name of the "Adelphi Society," composed of members belonging to the society of Friends, have erected a handsome two-story brick building, seventy-five feet in length, and thirty-five in breadth, which will contain, in its several apartments, about six hundred scholars. In other institutions in Philadelphia, the same system has been adopted. A school has been opened in Baltimore, and flourishes beyond expectation: and at George-

town, in the district of Columbia, a society has been formed, who have established a seminary on the same plan.

In several towns in New-Jersey, and at Hartford in Connecticut, very considerable progress has also been made in its introduction and establishment.

Thus has this excellent system of instruction been carried, in the United States, to an extent, which it is impossible to contemplate without pleasure. The importance of communicating to all classes, a plain education at least, is now readily acknowledged in every part of the civilized world. And in no country is the extension of general instruction more expedient than in this, where men enjoy an equality of rights, and where the character of the government is formed by the virtue and intelligence of the people. In large and populous cities there are also additional reasons for cultivating and strengthening the public mind: for it is there, that the contagion of bad example more particularly exists; and there, is the commission of crimes encouraged by the superior chance of concealment.

Liberal as the donations to this society have been, they are yet insufficient to enable the Trustees to erect a building on the lots in Christopher-street. A school in that quarter would give the society an opportunity of distributing more equally the advantages which it bestows; and even then the wants of the indigent would be far from being fully supplied. The Trustees, however, confidently rely, for future assistance, on the bounty of their

fellow-citizens, and of the constituted authorities; and they cherish the hope, that the period is not far distant, when every child in this extensive city will be furnished with that knowledge, which will fit him for the creditable performance of the ordinary concerns of life.

Fifth month, (May) 1814.

ACTS

PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE,

RELATIVE TO THE

FREE-SCHOOL SOCIETY OF NEW-YORK.

An Act to incorporate the society instituted in the city of New-York for the establishment of a Free-School, for the education of Poor Children, who do not belong to, or are not provided for, by any religious society. Passed April 9th, 1805.

WHEREAS De Witt Clinton and others have associated themselves for the laudable purpose of establishing a Free-School in the city of New-York, for the education of the children of persons in indigent circumstances, and who do not belong to, or are not provided for, by any religious society;

And whereas the said persons have presented a petition to the Legislature, setting forth the benefits which would result to society, from the education of such children, by implanting in their minds the principles of religion and morality, and by assisting their parents in providing suitable situa-

tions for them, where habits of industry and virtue may be acquired, and that it would enable them more effectually to accomplish the benevolent objects of their institution if the association were incorporated; Therefore,

1. *Be it enacted* by the people of the State of New-York, represented in Senate and Assembly, That De Witt Clinton, Samuel Osgood, Brockholst Livingston, John Murray, Jun. Jacob Morton, Samuel Miller, Joseph Constant, Thomas Eddy, Thomas Pearsall, Robert Bowne, Matthew Clarkson, Archibald Gracie, John M'Vickar, Charles Wilkes, Henry Ten Brook, G. Aspinwall, Valentine Seaman, William Johnson, William Coit, Matthew Franklin, Adrian Hegeman, Benj. G. Minturn, Leonard Bleecker, Thomas Franklin, Samuel Russell, Samuel Doughty, Alex. Robertson, Samuel Torbert, John Withington, Wm. Edgar, George Turnbull, Daniel D. Tompkins, Wm. Boyd, Jacob Mott, Benjamin Egbert, Thomas Farmar, and Samuel L. Mitchill, and all such other persons as now are, and shall hereafter become, members of the said society, shall be, and are hereby ordained, constituted, and declared to be a Body Corporate and Politic, in fact and in name, by the name of "The Society for establishing a Free-School in the city of New-York, for the education of such Poor Children as do not belong to, or are not provided for, by any religious society;" and by that name, they, and their successors for ever hereafter, shall, and may have succession, and by that name shall, and may be, persons in law, capable to sue and be sued, plead and be

impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all courts and places whatsoever, in all manner of actions, suits, complaints, matters, and causes whatsoever; and that they, and their successors, may have a common seal, and may change and alter the same at their pleasure; and they and their successors, by their said name, shall be for ever hereafter capable in law to purchase, take, receive, hold, and enjoy any estate, real or personal, whatsoever, of whatever nature or quality soever, to the use of them and their successors.

Provided always, that the yearly income of the real and personal estate and hereditaments held by the said corporation, doth not, nor shall at any time, exceed the sum of ten thousand dollars, and that they and their successors shall have full power and authority to lease such real estate and hereditament, on such terms as they shall judge most beneficial, and also to dispose of all such personal estate at their will and pleasure as shall appear to them most advantageous for the promoting the benevolent purposes of the said institution.

2. *And be it further enacted*, That there shall be for ever hereafter thirteen Trustees of the said corporation, who shall conduct and manage all the affairs of the said corporation, and that the said Trustees shall be members of the said corporation, and actually residing in the city of New-York; and the first Trustees of the said corporation shall be De Witt Clinton, Samuel Osgood, Brockholst Livingston, John Murray, Jun. Samuel Miller, Joseph Constant, Thomas Eddy, Thomas Pearsall,

Thomas Franklin, Matthew Clarkson, Leonard Bleecker, Samuel Russell, and William Edgar, who shall hold their offices until the first day of May next; and the Trustees of the said corporation, for the time being, shall have power to establish two or more Free-Schools in the city of New-York, for the purposes aforesaid, whenever the members of the said corporation at any general meeting by a majority of them, shall judge it expedient, for the more fully extending the benefits of education to poor children, agreeably to the benevolent design of the said association.

3. And for keeping up the succession in the said offices, *Be it further enacted,* That on the said first Monday of May next ensuing, and yearly, and every year, for ever thereafter, on the first Monday in May in every year, there shall be a general meeting of the members of the said corporation, who shall meet at some convenient place in the city of New-York, to be fixed by the by-laws of the said corporation, and there, by the majority of such of them as shall so meet, shall by ballot elect thirteen of their members to be Trustees of the said corporation for the year ensuing, of whom one shall be designated as President, one other as Vice-President, one other as Treasurer, and one other as Secretary, who shall immediately enter upon their said offices, and hold the same from the time of such election, for and during the space of one year, and until others shall be elected in their stead; and in case any of the said persons elected to be Trustees of the said corporation, or who shall here-

after be elected thereto, shall die, or remove out of the city of New-York before the time of their appointed service expires; or shall refuse or neglect to act in, and execute the said office, then and in every such case, the remaining Trustees of the said corporation shall, within thirty days thereafter, by ballot, elect another or others, of the members of the said corporation, in the stead of him or them dying or removing, refusing or neglecting to act; and that such person or persons, as shall have the greatest number of votes, at every such election, shall hold their said offices from the time of such election, until the first Monday in May, then next ensuing, and until others shall be chosen in his or their stead.

4. *And be it further enacted,* That the Trustees of the said corporation, shall regularly meet on the second Monday in every month, and at such other times as they may judge proper and expedient, and that seven or more of the said Trustees so convened, shall for ever hereafter be a legal meeting of the said corporation, and that, at any and every such legal meeting, it shall be lawful for them, or a majority of them, to make all such by-laws, rules, and regulations for the government and regulation of the said corporation and its affairs, and for the management and disposal of the property and estate of the said corporation, as they may deem requisite to promote the design and intent of establishing this corporation; and the same, or any part of them, to alter, amend, or repeal, from time to time, as they, or a major part of them, may think fit; and shall

have power, whenever they may judge it necessary, to call a general meeting of the members of the said corporation, who may adjourn from time to time as to them may seem proper.

5. *And be it further enacted,* That at the first legal meeting of any seven, or more of the said Trustees, after the annual election of Trustees in May in every year, they, or a majority of them, so met, shall and may nominate and appoint one or more teachers or instructers, to take charge of the said school or schools, under the care and direction of the said corporation; and also to appoint such other officers or servants, as they may think necessary; and to allow, and fix their respective compensations; and such teachers and instructers, officers, servants, or any of them, at their pleasure to dismiss and discharge, and another, or others, in their stead, to appoint.

6. *And be it further enacted,* That the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, and Assistants of the city of New-York, shall and may be, *ex officio,* members of the said corporation, and that any person, who shall subscribe and contribute, to the benefit of the said society, the sum of eight dollars, shall, by virtue of such contribution, be a member of the said corporation; and that any person, who shall subscribe and contribute, to the benefit of the said society, the sum of twenty-five dollars, shall thereby become a member of the said corporation, and shall be further entitled, and have the right, during the life of such contributor, to send one child to be educated at any school un-

der the care and direction of the said corporation; or whoever shall contribute to the said society the sum of forty dollars, shall be a member thereof as aforesaid, and be entitled to send, during the life of such contributor, two children to any school under the care and direction of the said corporation, subject however to such by-laws, rules, and regulations, as shall, and may be, prescribed by the said corporation.

7. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the Trustees of the said corporation, to report annually to the general meeting of the members of the said corporation, in May in each year, a particular account of the state of the school or schools, under their care, and of the monies received and expended by them during the year, so as to exhibit a full and perfect statement of the property, funds, and affairs of the said corporation.

8. *And be it further enacted,* That this act shall be, and hereby is, declared to be a public act, and shall be construed benignly and favourably for every beneficial purpose hereby intended; nor shall any non-user of the privileges hereby granted to the said corporation, create or produce any forfeiture of the same.

State of New-York, }
Secretary's office. }

I certify the preceding to be a true copy of an act of the Legislature on the file in this office.

Albany, April 25th, 1805.

ARCH. M'INTYER,
Dep. Secretary.

An act to amend an act, entitled an act to incorporate the society instituted in the city of New-York, for the establishment of a free-school, for the education of such poor children as do not belong to, or are not provided for, by any religious society. Passed April 2, 1806.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of New-York, represented in senate and assembly, That the Trustees of the society, for establishing a Free-School in the city of New-York, for the education of such poor children, as do not belong to, or are not provided for, by any religious society, may hold their monthly meetings, directed by the act above recited, on any day of the week they may deem convenient, instead of holding such meetings on the second Monday in the month, as by the fourth section of the said act, they are at present required to do.

State of New-York, }
Secretary's office. }

I certify that the preceding is a true copy of an act of the Legislature of this state, on file in this office.

Albany, April 2, 1806.

(Signed)

ELISHA JENKINS,
Secretary.

Mr. Clinton, from the committee to whom was referred the petition of the Trustees of the society established in the city of New-York, for the education of such poor children as do not belong to, or are not provided for, by any religious society, reported as follows; to wit:

That by an act of the Legislature, passed the 9th day of April, 1805, a corporation was established in the city of New-York, by the name of "The Society for establishing a Free-School in the City of New-York, for the education of such poor children as do not belong to, or are not provided for, by any religious society." That the said Trustees have, in pursuance of the powers vested in them, established a school consisting of sixty-seven poor children, on a plan which will educate five hundred with the facility that one-tenth part of that number are usually taught; that it is confidently believed, not only from the evidence derived from this experiment, but also from that of a very extensive institution, consisting of one thousand scholars, established in London, that no mode hitherto adopted, so decidedly combines the two advantages, of economy in expense, and rapidity in learning; that the said Trustees have no other funds to promote their benevolent objects, but such as are derived from private contributions; and that for want of means to erect a suitable building, they are greatly embarrassed in the prosecution of their plan of education; that the Committee are of opinion, that until aid can be afforded from the fund allotted to common schools, it is highly expedient and proper for the Legislature to assist the said institution in some other shape; that under this impression, the Committee have prepared a bill, which they pray for leave to introduce, as follows;

An act for the encouragement of Free-Schools in the city of New-York. Passed 27th February, 1807.

Whereas the Trustees of the society, for establishing a Free-School in the city of New-York, for the education of such poor children as do not belong to, or are not provided for, by any religious society, have, by their memorial, solicited the aid of the Legislature; and whereas their plan of extending the benefits of education to poor children, and the excellent mode of instruction adopted by them, are highly deserving of the encouragement of government, Therefore be it enacted by the people of the State of New-York, represented in senate and assembly, that out of the monies appropriated by the acts entitled "An act to lay a duty on strong liquors, and for regulating inns and taverns," to the payment of the contingent charges of the city of New-York, and which shall come into the treasury of the said city, after the first Tuesday of May next, there shall be paid to the Trustees of the said society, for the purpose of erecting a suitable building or buildings for the instruction of poor children, the sum of four thousand dollars, and every year hereafter, until the pleasure of the Legislature shall otherwise determine, there shall be paid to the said Trustees out of the proceeds of the said fund the sum of one thousand dollars, for the purpose of promoting the benevolent objects of the said corporation.

April 1, 1808.

Whereas the Trustees of the Society for establishing a Free-School in the city of New-York, for the education of such poor children as do not belong to, or are not provided for, by any religious society,

have by their petition represented to the Legislature, that the act incorporating that society restrains them unnecessarily in the communication of the advantages of their establishment, by confining them to a certain description of poor children; and have also petitioned for a competent portion of the school-fund applicable to the city of New-York, in order to be the better enabled to proceed in the execution of their important duties; and whereas the said fund does not as yet amount to a sum sufficiently large to render an immediate distribution advisable; but as the Legislature are desirous of encouraging an institution, so laudable and useful, by granting the petition of the said Trustees in other respects: Therefore,

Be it enacted by the people of the state of New-York, represented in senate and assembly, That the name of the said corporation shall be, and hereby is, changed, and that it shall, in future, be denominated "The Free-School Society of New-York," and that its powers shall extend to all children, who are the proper objects of a gratuitous education.

An act respecting the Free-School Society of New-York. In compliance with a memorial of the Trustees of the Free-School Society of New-York,

1. *Be it enacted* by the people of the state of New-York, represented in senate and assembly, That no person shall hereafter become a member of the said society, unless he shall contribute the sum of fifty dollars to the funds, and be elected by a majority

of the Trustees; and that every member, hereafter admitted, shall have a right during his life to send one child to one of the schools of the said society. Provided that nothing herein contained, shall be deemed to affect the rights of the present members and benefactors of the said institution.

2. *And be it further enacted,* That at each first meeting of the said Trustees, after every annual election of Trustees, it shall be in their discretion to appoint, out of the members of the said corporation, an additional number of Trustees, not exceeding five.

3. *And be it further enacted,* That out of the monies appropriated by the act, entitled "An act to lay a duty on strong liquors, and for regulating Inns and Taverns," to the payment of the contingent charges of the city of New-York, and which shall be first received by the commissioner of excise, after the first Tuesday of May next, there shall be paid by him to the said Trustees, the sum of four thousand dollars, for the purpose of erecting suitable accommodations for the instruction of poor children. Passed the senate March 3, 1810. Passed the assembly March 24, 1810.

An act for the further encouragement of Free-Schools in the city of New-York. Passed March 30, 1811.

Whereas the Trustees of the "Free-School Society of New-York," have, by their memorial, solicited the aid of the Legislature in extending the benefits of their institution; therefore,

1. *Be it enacted by the people of the state of New-York,* represented in senate and assembly, That out of the monies appropriated by the act, entitled "An act to lay a duty on strong liquors, and for regulating Inns and Taverns," to the payment of the contingent charges of the city of New-York, and which shall come into the treasury of the said city after the first Tuesday of May next, there shall be paid to the said Trustees the sum of four thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting another building for the instruction of poor children, and every year hereafter, until the pleasure of the Legislature shall otherwise determine, there shall be paid to the said Trustees, out of the proceeds of the said fund, in addition to the annual sums heretofore granted, the sum of five hundred dollars, for the purpose of promoting the benevolent objects of the said corporation.

2. *And be it further enacted,* That no misnomer of the said corporation in any deed, will, testament, gift, grant, demise, or other instrument of contract or conveyance, shall vitiate or defeat the same, provided the corporation shall be sufficiently described to ascertain the intention of the parties.

State of New-York, }
Secretary's office. }

I certify the preceding to be a true copy of an original act of the Legislature of this state, now on file in this office, at the city of Albany, the 4th day of April, 1811.

ANTHONY LAMB,
Dep. Secretary.

An act to provide for the election of an additional number of Trustees in the Free-School Society of New-York, and for other purposes. Passed February 28, 1812.

In compliance with the request of the Trustees for the Free-School Society of New-York,

Be it enacted by the people of the state of New-York, represented in senate and assembly, That it shall and may be lawful for the members of "The Free-School Society of New-York," to elect for ever hereafter, at every annual election of Trustees, six Trustees in addition to those heretofore authorized by law.

State of New-York, }
Secretary's office. }

I certify that the preceding is a true extract from an original act of the Legislature of this state, on file in this office.

Albany, March 30, 1812.

ANTHONY LAMB,
Dep. Secretary.

BY-LAWS

FOR

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE TRUSTEES.

I.

Be it ordained by the Trustees of "The Free-School Society of New-York," That every election of the Trustees of the said society shall be held at the Trustees' room in Chatham-street, on the first Monday in the fifth month, (May) in each year, and shall begin at 10 o'clock, and close at 12 o'clock of the same day.

II.

The secretary of the said society, for the time being, shall give at least three days public notice in two of the newspapers printed in the city of New-York, of every such election, and of the time and place the same is to be held.

III.

Every such election shall be held under the inspection of three of the Trustees of the said society, to be appointed by the said Trustees for that purpose; and the secretary of the society shall keep a poll-list at every such election, under the direction and view of the said inspectors; and they, or a major part of them, shall preside at such election, and conduct and direct the same in the manner herein prescribed.

IV.

At every such election, there shall be elected nineteen Trustees to manage the concerns of the said society; and at the first meeting of the said Trustees after such annual election, it shall be in their discretion to appoint, out of the members of the said society, an additional number of Trustees, not exceeding five.

V.

Every member of the said society, qualified to vote for Trustees, shall at such election deliver his ballot to one of the inspectors, which ballot shall be a paper-ticket, containing the names of as many persons for Trustees as are then to be chosen; or so many of them as such elector shall think proper to vote for, severally written on such paper-ticket, and designating four of them as votes for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary; and the inspectors shall cause the name of the elector to be written down in the poll-list by the Secretary, and shall cause the ballot, without suffering the same to be inspected, to be deposited in a box, to be provided for that purpose.

VI.

The said inspectors, or a majority of them, as soon as the poll is closed, shall proceed to canvass and estimate the said votes; and shall thereupon make and sign a certificate, under their hands and seals, who are the persons so elected as Trustees of the said society for the ensuing year; and shall deliver the same to the secretary, to be entered by him in the records of the said society, and who

shall forthwith give notice to the persons so elected as Trustees.

VII.

The three Trustees appointed inspectors at the annual election of Trustees, shall prepare the annual report of the Trustees, to be made to the general meeting of the members of the society, pursuant to the seventh section of the act for incorporating the said society; and shall, previous to such general meeting of the members, lay the same before the Trustees, to be approved and signed by them, or a major part of them.

VIII.

The President for the time being, or in his absence, the Vice-President, or in the absence of both of them, one of the Trustees, to be nominated and chosen as President pro tempore, shall preside at all meetings of the said society, and at all meetings of the Trustees, shall regulate all debate, and preserve order and decorum; and in case an equal number of votes shall be given on the affirmative and negative of any question, the person so presiding shall have a casting vote. The President also, or in his absence, the Vice-President, shall call a special meeting of all the members of the said society, when five Trustees of the said society shall request it; and shall call a special meeting of the Trustees, when he shall think it necessary.

IX.

The secretary of the said society shall have the custody of the by-laws, records, books, and papers of the society: he shall, under the direction of the

President, give due notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Trustees, or of the members of the society, and shall attend the same: he shall keep fair and accurate minutes of all the proceedings of the Trustees, and of the society; and in case of his sickness or necessary absence, his duties shall be performed by the treasurer, or such other person as may be appointed for the time being.

X.

The treasurer, when he enters upon the duties of his office, shall give a bond for the faithful performance of the trust reposed in him, to the society, in such sum, and with such security, as the Trustees, or a majority of them, may from time to time require. He shall receive and keep in trust all sums of money due and payable, and all donations or bequests of money made to the said society; and the deeds and evidences of all real or personal property given or bequeathed to the said society: he shall pay all such sums of money as the Trustees may authorize, he shall keep a true and faithful account of all monies received and paid by him, and once a year, or oftener, whenever thereunto required by the Trustees, shall render a particular and correct statement of the same to the Trustees, who shall appoint two of their number to examine and audit his accounts.

XI.

The regular monthly meeting of the Trustees shall be on the first sixth day, (Friday,) in every month, at the Trustees' room in Chatham-street, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

XII.

The Trustees, who, from sickness or other causes, are unable to attend their meetings, shall communicate to the meeting, either in writing or otherwise, an excuse for their absence.

XIII.

Candidates for admission into the Free-School Society of New-York, may be proposed and balloted for at the same meeting of the Trustees in which they are proposed, unless one of the Trustees shall request the balloting to be postponed until the next meeting, in which case it shall be postponed accordingly.

XIV.

There shall be a committee appointed by the Trustees out of their number, to have the management of the various concerns of the schools during the recess of the board, whose duties are particularly pointed out in the rules for the government of the school committees.

XV.

At the first meeting of the Trustees after the annual election in the fifth month, (May) in every year, they shall appoint teachers to take charge of the schools under the care of this society; and shall also appoint the several committees which may be necessary to manage the concerns of the institution.

XVI.

Seven or more of the Trustees shall constitute a legal meeting of the board.

RULES

FOR THE

GOVERNMENT OF THE SCHOOLS.

I.

The school hours shall be from 9 to 12 o'clock in the forenoon, and from 2 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

II.

A punctual and regular attendance of the children being of the first importance, the teachers are requested to enjoin it upon them as an indispensable duty. When a child has been absent from the school, the teachers are to ascertain the cause. Should any be repeatedly absent without assigning a sufficient reason, the teachers are desired to notify in writing those who may have the care of such children, and if no amendment then take place, they are to report the case to the school committees.

III.

As cleanliness not only promotes the comfort, but the health of the children, it shall be the duty of the teachers to take notice of every neglect in

this particular, and to use such means as they may deem best calculated to ensure an attention to it.

IV.

As the mode of instruction adopted by this institution renders the appointment of monitors necessary, the teachers are requested to select none for that station, but those who are distinguished for their exemplary deportment and attention to their studies. The monitors are to hold their offices only during good behaviour. The children are ordered to respect and obey them.

V.

To encourage and stimulate the monitors to a faithful performance of their duties, the teachers shall be directed to distribute to them weekly tickets of approbation, if their conduct has rendered them worthy of it. The monitors shall wait on the school committees at the end of every three weeks, and exhibit the ticket or tickets they have earned. On such exhibitions the school committees shall distribute the following rewards; to each monitor producing one ticket of approbation in the course of three weeks, three cents: to each monitor producing two tickets for the same space of time, seven cents: and to every one holding three tickets, one shilling.

VI.

When any child, during his stay in the school, has behaved in such a manner as to merit the approbation of the Trustees, he shall be furnished, on his leaving the school, with a certificate expressive of such approbation.

VII.

The Trustees being impressed with a belief, that important advantages will result to the children of this institution, from a due observance of the sabbath, or first day of the week, direct, that all the scholars be ordered to attend on the morning of that day, at the school to which they may belong, and that they there be divided into classes, and proceed under the charge of a monitor, to such places of public worship, as may be designated by their parents or guardians.

VIII.

The monitors shall be responsible for the attendance of their respective classes at the place of public worship to which they may belong: and shall, on the following day, report the delinquents, if any, to the teachers, who shall report the same to the school committees.

IX.

In the future admission of children to either of the schools, it shall be made an indispensable condition, that the regulations with respect to the attendance of public worship, shall be strictly assented to on the part of the applicant.

X.

The afternoon of the third day in each week, (Tuesday) shall be appropriated to the instruction of the children at their respective schools, in the principles of the Christian religion; and in order that they may be educated in the peculiar tenets of the denominations to which they respectively belong, the several churches, with which they are

connected, shall be respectfully invited to send suitable persons to catechise, and otherwise so to instruct them.

XI.

A portion of the scriptures shall be read in each of the schools by the first class twice a day, at the opening in the morning, and at the close in the evening.

DUTIES OF THE TEACHERS.

I.

It shall be the duty of the teacher in every school, under the care of the Free-School Society of New-York, with the assistance of his monitors, to keep a book, in which he shall enter, in alphabetical order, the name of each child admitted into the school; and opposite the name of each child, he shall insert, in distinct columns, marked for that purpose, the time when such child was admitted and discharged, and the time when he or she was advanced in any of the different branches of learning taught in these schools. He shall immediately make due entry of all the children now in school, specifying, in the proper columns, the present state of their learning; and shall carefully note the degree of learning possessed by those hereafter admitted, at the time of their admission. And he shall make a report in writing to the Trustees once in three months, namely, at their stated meetings, in July, October, January, and April, of the number

of children admitted and discharged in the preceding three months, and also of the number who have been advanced in each of the branches of tuition mentioned in such literary register.

II.

Every teacher shall also keep in another book, prepared for that purpose, an alphabetical list of all the children belonging to the school under his care, their age, place of residence, native place, what parents, parents' occupation, by whom recommended, when admitted, when discharged, their general character, and finally their destination, when this can be ascertained.

III.

The teachers shall pay particular attention to the regulations prescribed under the head of rules for the government of the schools.

IV.

The teacher of school No. 1, shall assist the secretary in recording the minutes of the proceedings of the society, and of the Trustees.

V.

Every teacher shall make a return weekly to the school committee of No. 1, of the number of children in the school under his care, and of the number admitted and discharged in the preceding week.

RULES

FOR

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEES.

I.

THERE shall be appointed to each school, under the care of this society, a school committee, to consist of three Trustees, who shall have the chief oversight and management of the schools, during the recess of the board.

II.

One member shall be appointed at each regular meeting of the Trustees, to serve on each of these committees, the oldest in service retiring from it. Each member of the committees will thus have served three months; and the Trustees shall be appointed to this service in alphabetical order.

III.

Applications for the admission of children into any of the schools shall be made to the school committee of school No. 1, who shall meet for that purpose every second day of the week, (Monday) from 3 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon, at the Trustees' room in Chatham-street.

IV.

The school committee of No. 1, shall keep a book, containing an alphabetical list of all the members of this society, designating those who have the right to recommend children, and those who have the privilege of voting only: this book should also specify whether the member possessing the right to recommend a child, has availed himself of his right; and if so, the name of the child. It should also specify the donations or subscriptions received.

V.

When application is made for the admission of a child, particular inquiry should be made into the circumstances of the applicant, so that none be admitted, who are not the proper objects of a gratuitous education. The school committee may admit, in their discretion, such children as they may think proper, without reference to the subscribers; but a preference must be given to those who are recommended by the members of the society, possessing that right.

VI.

The school committee of No. 1, shall also meet at the school every fifth day, (Thursday) afternoon, from 3 to 5 o'clock, for the purpose of inspecting the school, and examining the children in their learning.

VII.

The school committee of No. 2, shall meet every fourth day, (Wednesday) afternoon, from 3 to 5 o'clock, at the school under their care, for the purpose of examining the children in the different branches of their learning.

VIII.

Each of the school committees shall keep a book of minutes, in which they shall note their own attendance, and enter all such transactions as they may consider of sufficient importance to be recorded. The minutes of their proceedings shall be produced and read before the Trustees at their regular meetings for their approbation.

IX.

It shall be the duty of the school committees to assist parents in obtaining suitable places for their children, when they shall be discharged from the school; and all applications on the part of the public for such children shall be made to either of the school committees.

X.

The funds of the society cannot, in any case, be appropriated for the clothing of the children.

XI.

Children may be admitted on the recommendation of all subscribers of fifty dollars, even before such subscribers have been balloted for by the Trustees.

A SKETCH

OF

THE METHOD OF EDUCATION

EMPLOYED

BY JOSEPH LANCASTER, IN LONDON;

AND ADOPTED BY

THE FREE-SCHOOL SOCIETY OF NEW-YORK.

METHOD OF TEACHING THE ALPHABET.

THE children are taught the letters by printing them in sand.

A table, suitable for the purpose, constructed as follows, must be provided.

A
B

A represents the part where the sand is to be placed, and is an horizontal surface, about fifteen feet long, and six inches wide; this should be stained with black ink, in order to show the letters; and to preserve the sand from wasting, ledges about an inch high are nailed round this part of the table: the sand must be dry; and the instrument for smoothing it, should be a piece of sole-leather, the width of the sand surface, on which are cut

three small notches; these rule lines, and are intended to keep the letters of equal height on the board: and B represents the space, a little declining downwards for the arm to rest on.

Ten children can be accommodated at this table; each scholar has a stick given to him about the thickness of a quill, and four inches long, with which he is to write the letters on the sand. The alphabet is divided into three parts, as follows, viz. the perpendicular letters, I H T L E F, i and l, form the first lesson; the triangular letters, A V W M N Z K Y X, v w k y z and x, form the second; and the circular letters, O U C J G D P B R Q S, a o b d p q g c m n h t u r s f j, form the third: these are in succession placed before the class, which is under the direction of a monitor, who, with an audible voice, desires them to form the first letter; each scholar now makes his best effort, which, perhaps, is a very awkward one; but the monitor pointing out the defects, and occasionally printing the letter for them, teaches them to retrace it: after repeated trials upon the same letter, the class is soon able to form it readily, and with neatness. The next letters of the lesson are in succession placed before them, and are taught in the same manner. It may be necessary to observe, that on no account whatever must the pupil pass on to another letter, until he is able to print the first with neatness. In being thus exercised in forming the letters, the pupil will in a short time know them; and he is not only enabled to print his letters, but also learns them sooner than in the usual mode of teaching.

If the class is continual in its application to forming letters on the sand, it will be found that the employment will be insipid and burdensome; it should therefore be varied by having the class several times a day called from their seats, and formed into a circle round a lesson, which is printed in large letters, and suspended by a nail to the wall, in such a manner that the whole class can view it. The monitor then points to the first letter, and asks aloud, What letter is that? The boy, at the head of the class, answers first; when, if he should make a mistake, the question is put to the second boy, and so on until some one in the class answers aright; in which case the boy takes precedency in the class. This exercise soon perfects them in the knowledge of their letters, and is also a pleasing relaxation.

SYLLABIC SPELLING AND READING.

The children having learned their letters, are removed to a higher class by the *inspecting monitor*, and are taught to spell and read monosyllables. The office of inspecting monitor is very essential; being his business to examine, and report the proficiency of the scholars to the master, who gives them small prizes: they are then paraded round the school, preceded by a monitor, who proclaims aloud, "these good boys have received prizes for their good behaviour, and attention to their studies, and are to be removed to another class." This has a pleasing effect in the school, and is an excitement to general perseverance. The office of inspecting

monitor is extended to all the succeeding classes. The first lesson of syllabic reading should be an easy one, and not more than four or five words. This class is also taught to write their words on the sand, as required by the first class; the monitor and the class being furnished in the same manner. They are desired by the monitor to make two letters, b—a, who teaches them that b—a spells ba, after this, d—a is given them, and the monitor teaches them as before, and so on in succession. The monitor should observe the same rule here as before, that one thing be done well, before another is undertaken.

We have thus seen the class engaged in learning their letters, and at the same time printing them neatly in the sand. We have seen them go through their exercises of spelling by printing the words as they were spelled aloud by the monitor; the class being now so far perfected in their first spelling lesson, that they not only can print the words in the sand, but they can also spell them from memory, one after another, as the monitor gives them out. The next point to be gained is the reading of them. This however is no difficult task: the scholars having frequently seen the words printed in the sand before them, they have become already so familiar, that they have only to see the word, and they can generally pronounce with certainty what word it is. The monitor frequently calls out his class, and forms it into a circle round the reading lesson, when they are exercised, as noticed before. The

first lesson may now be considered as learned: for the children in the class can not only print the words with neatness, but they can spell them, and they can read them.

The second lesson contains an equal number of words, and is taught in the same manner. As the class progresses, the lesson may be increased to ten or twelve words, and so on to even twenty, without requiring any more time.

In this way the class should be conducted through the monosyllables. They should be able to print and spell every word before they attempt to read them; and should never enter upon a new lesson, until the preceding one has been read with correctness and ease.

WRITING AND SPELLING ON SLATES.

The class is now qualified to enter on words of two syllables; these are not taught at the sand table as heretofore, but are removed to desks inlaid with slates, where each scholar has a pencil, and is taught to write, first a straight stroke, secondly the component parts of letters, thirdly, the letters and their combinations. The slates are to be ruled with a sharp-pointed instrument: their copy is written by the monitor, or with chalk on a black board, and hung up in view. The children should be carefully taught to hold their pencils, as though they were writing with a pen on paper. The class should be daily exercised in spelling and reading; they should be called up by the monitor, at least twice in the morning and twice in

the afternoon. After they have gone once through their lesson, they resume their task.

All the spelling lessons heretofore learned were monosyllables, and they were learned by printing them in sand; but words of two or more syllables are to be learned by writing them on slates. And as they have acquired a knowledge of the written alphabet, the shape and proportion of the letters, and the proper mode of joining them together, the monitor again resumes his business of spelling his class. His duty becomes more arduous than before; for he is not only required to inspect the words as they are written, to detect errors in spelling, but constant attention must be given to the manner of holding the pencil. Being in readiness to proceed, the first lesson, (containing about ten words) is given to the class in an audible voice by the monitor word after word: the first time they are given out, they should be spelled by the monitor, but the second time the words should only be pronounced, and written down from memory. The class is then exercised in spelling the words they have written, first in the book, and then out of book; and also to read the lesson, suitable to the words they have written.

After they have become proficient in the first lesson, the second is given, and is to be learned in the same manner; and in this way they go regularly through the spelling-book. While the children are too young, or too inexperienced to be taught arithmetic, their spelling, reading, and writing should continue without any intermission; but those who are

further advanced, and are learning arithmetic, spell only three or four lessons in the course of a day.

READING.

The pupils having become expert syllabic readers, and acquainted with an extensive knowledge of words, so as to pronounce them with propriety, are permitted to read in the testament, the introduction to the English Reader, &c—So that little more remains to be done than frequent exercise, at least twice a day, and to imitate a good example.

WRITING.

Writing on the slate, in connexion with spelling, has already been described; but writing, independently of that exercise, is also taught in the following manner. Copper-plate copies are placed before them, and they write the copy on the slate. The monitor frequently passes and repasses along his class, teaches the manner of holding the pencil, points out the faults he can discover, and sometimes, by making a letter, or writing a word, teaches the shape and proportion of the letters in the copy before them. Sufficient time having been devoted to writing, the monitor removes the copies, and the class resume their other studies.

The degree of perfection to which boys will attain by writing on the slate, without ever having a pen in their hands, is very considerable; but as the use of the pen is also to be acquired by practice, this

part of their education must not be neglected; and twice in the course of the week, a few lines written in a copy-book, are deemed expedient.

ARITHMETIC.

The new method of teaching the simple rules of arithmetic in classes, has also been found very expeditious. In the first place, the figures may be taught, like the written alphabet, from a copy on the black board. The numeration table may also readily be taught in the same way; and when the addition table is well understood, the class may be instructed in the following manner; the monitor holds a book in his hand, which contains the whole work, and the answer of every example that he teaches. A few sums may be two or three figures only; and when they begin to understand the art of addition, they may be enlarged to several columns, as in the following example:

		4	3	2	7
		2	5	3	6
		4	6	7	5
		3	5	2	4
Total	1	5	0	6	2

In this example the monitor reads aloud from his book the first number, four thousand three hundred and twenty seven, which every boy sets down in

figures on his slate. This being inspected by the monitor, as he passes along the class, and found to be right, he gives out the next number, 2536, which the scholars place as directed, under the first number, and with units under units, tens under tens, &c. Then the following numbers, which they place as before. The monitor then proceeds to add up the first column in an audible voice, saying 4 and 5 are 9, and 6 are 15, and 7 are 22, put down 2 and carry 2 to the next column. All in the class place the 2 under the first column. The monitor then proceeds, as before, to the other columns; and as he passes along the class, sees that every boy has placed the sum total as directed; he knows too that the work is correct by the key that he holds in his hand. This operation is repeated until the pupils have given sufficient proof that they understand the whole process.

Another method of teaching the simple rules of arithmetic, and one which should be frequently resorted to, is in the use of the black board. The class having written the sum on their slates, and attended to casting it up, are now called up by the monitor to exercise in that manner. The same sum is written with chalk on the board, large enough to be seen by the whole class. The monitor points to the first column, when the head boy adds aloud 4 and five are 9, and 6 are 15, and 7 are 22, put down 2 and carry two to the next. The monitor stands by the board with a piece of chalk, sets down the several products, as they are found by the boys, who add the columns in their turns, and a new ex-

ample is given, when the first is well understood. When a boy in adding makes a mistake, the next, or any boy in the class, who discovers it, should take precedency of him. This excites attention and laudable ambition.

This account of the method of teaching addition, will be sufficient in arithmetic: as the same principle is applicable to all the other rules, and may with superior advantages, be adopted by every teacher.

Many children enter upon the study of arithmetic under great disadvantages, for want of a knowledge of the tables. This should never be the case: when they meet with difficulties, they feel discouraged, and from this cause the labour of teachers becomes very much increased.

DONATIONS

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FREE-SCHOOL SOCIETY OF NEW-YORK.

In a list of donations, so extensive as the following, it is possible that some inaccuracies, in stating the amount of individual subscriptions, may have occurred, which have escaped the notice of the Trustees: if this should be found to be the case, or if the name of any subscriber has been omitted, the Trustees will endeavour to exhibit a more perfect account in a future publication.

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Item. *I give and bequeath to "The Free-School Society of New-York," the sum of*
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